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## Newsnotes

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## NEWSNOTES

### NEWS

The Governing Body of the Vincentian Studies Institute (the ten provincial superiors of the ten provinces of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity in the United States) have confirmed the following appointments and additions to the Vincentian Studies Institute:

- Rev. Edward Udovic, C.M., has been appointed to a fourth three-year term as Presiding Officer (Spring 2002 - Spring 2005). Rev. Udovic presently serves as University Secretary, Senior Executive for University Mission and Vice President for Administration at DePaul University in Chicago.
- Rev. Joseph Hubbert, C.M., representing the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission, and Sr. Francine Brown, D.C., representing the East Central Province of the Daughters of Charity, have been reappointed to five year terms as members of the Vincentian Studies Institute.
- Dr. Simone Zurawski of the Department of Art and Art History at DePaul University has been named the first lay member of the Vincentian Studies Institute. Dr. Zurawski, an expert on the art and architecture of the pre and post revolutionary mother houses of the Congregation of the Mission in Paris, will serve a five year term from Spring 2002 to Spring 2007.
- Rev. Steven Minkiel, C.M., currently at St. Peter's in Concord, N.H., has been named the new representative of the New England Province of the Congregation of the Mission, assuming the post formerly held by Rev. George Dabrowski, C.M.
- The Governing Body also confirmed the reappointments of Rev. Edward Udovic, C.M. of the Midwest Province (fourth five-year term); Rev. Joseph Hubbert, C.M., of the Eastern Province (fourth five-year term); and Sr. Francine Brown, D.C., of the East Central Province (second five-year term).

The appointment of Rev. Minkiel was unfortunately necessitated by the Rev. George Dabrowski's health. We at the Vincentian Studies Institute would like to thank Rev. Dabrowski for his years of service as a fellow V.S.I. member, and for the good friendship he extended to us all. His dedication, input, his infectious laugh and, of course, his ever-present box of chocolates, will be missed at future meetings. We offer our thanks, our prayers and our best wishes to Rev. Dabrowski.

## RESEARCH GRANT

The Vincentian Studies Institute has awarded a grant of \$5,000.00 to Dr. Richard Janet, of Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri. The topic of Dr. Janet's research will be: *The Decline and Fall of St. Mary's of the Barrens Seminary: A Case Study in the Contraction of an American Catholic Religious Order*. This study will examine the decisions to close the seminary and dispose of seminary property, including an analysis of the consequences of the closure for the Vincentian order and the local community.

The V.S.I. sponsors an annual research grant program to encourage scholarly research and publication in areas of Vincentian history, spirituality and praxis. More information on the grant program can be obtained by calling our office at 773-325-7348, or visiting our web site at [www.depaul.edu/~vstudies](http://www.depaul.edu/~vstudies) and following the links through Scholarly Resources to Research Grants.

## VINCENTIAN HERITAGE DEPARTMENT BOOKSTORE

The Vincentian Studies Institute is pleased to announce that it has formed a new relationship with the DePaul University Publications Group. Orders will no longer be handled by the university campus bookstore, but independently, which will result in a much higher level of service for our customers. From this point forward all **phone orders** should be directed to our new line at **1-773-325-4943**. Mailed orders should be sent through our office at: Vincentian Studies Institute, Vincentian Heritage Department, 2233 North Kenmore Ave., Chicago, IL, 60614-3594. And, as always, orders can still be placed at our online bookstore at: [www.depaul.edu/~vstudies](http://www.depaul.edu/~vstudies)

## POSTSCRIPT TO THE VINCENT ORATORIO

Vicomte Fernand de Beaufranchet, composer. In 1998, DePaul University in Chicago, in connection with the music ensemble *Ars Musica Chicago* performed a long lost "Oratorio in Three Parts dedicated to St. Vincent de Paul." At the time little information was available on the composer, however, recently the composer's grandson has written to provide information about his ancestor. Coming from a distinguished noble and military family, Fernand de Beaufranchet was born at Bourges

on 25 January 1845 and died at his estate on 12 February 1927. Mobilized during the Franco-Prussian war as a Captain he found that one of his companions was Camille Saint-Saens. Saint-Saens later dedicated one of his works to Beaufranchet as "My superior officer, my colleague, and my friend." Beaufranchet was taught by Verrimst, was closely associated with Leo Delibes, and was familiar with Jules Massenet. The 1998 concert is available on Compact Disc through the Vincentian Heritage Department Bookstore.

## PUBLICATIONS

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Daughters of Charity in California, (1852-2002) the Western Province of the Daughters has published a commemorative booklet entitled, *The Journal*. The publication contains vivid selections from contemporary accounts of the pioneer journey and first years of the sisters' ministry in California. Copies can be obtained from the Seton Provincialate, 26000 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022.

## BOOKS

Claude Dinnat, *Soeur Rosalie Rendu ou L'Amour a l'oeuvre dans le Paris du XIXe siecle* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2001), pp. 228. Translated from the book cover: "An exceptional Daughter of Charity, Sister Rosalie consecrated her entire life to the service of the poor.

For more than 50 years she served as superior of the same house in the Mouffetard quarter, which was the poorest area of Paris in this era. She worked with a zeal, a dynamism and an efficacy which won the admiration of all, from the most humble to the most powerful.

We relive, with her, one of the most turbulent periods in the history of France, from the Revolution to the Second Empire, which saw societal transformation and the growth of a social conscience among Catholic intellectuals and some ecclesiastics. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul was founded at this time with the advice of Sister Rosalie.

This daughter of Saint Vincent experienced struggles, revolutions and epidemics of cholera. In these dramatic circumstances she manifested the force of her character, showing an exemplary courage that edified her contemporaries. Throughout her life she demonstrated a



luminous faith, a confidence in God, a humility, and a compassion for the weak and the abandoned that revealed a soul filled with grace.

Her beatification process began in 1953, and is continuing."

Jeffrey Marlett, *Saving the Heartland: Catholic Missionaries in Rural America* (DeKalb: University of Northern Illinois Press, 2002). Taken from the book:

"From Arkansas to Minnesota and across the Great Plains, mid-twentieth century Catholic missionaries brought their faith to the heartland, adapting liturgical traditions to rural conditions. Traveling on "motor missions" with mobile altars and folding pews without local priests. In rural communities, swing classes doubled as catechism lessons, and animal husbandry coexisted with Catholic theology. These Catholic agrarians, while saving the American heartland, hoped to save the faith from modernist doctrines and to gain rural converts to a religious practice that was associated mainly with urban immigrants.

Rural Catholics took agriculture seriously, seeing it as a saving grace for the entire nation. They drew inspiration and comfort from the rural and agricultural images prevalent in Scripture, such as Israel's land of milk and honey and the Savior's humble birth in a stable. At a time when the majority of American Catholics lived in big cities, agrarians believed the future of farming depended on shifting the population back to rural areas. Catholic agrarians joined with other groups, both religious and secular, to improve American farming practices. In the spirit of the back-to-the-land movement, Catholics evangelized side by side with their Protestant counterparts at country crossroads and county fairs.

Exploring the Catholic agrarian agenda and the theological vision that motivated it, Marlett interprets the influence of prominent twentieth century Catholics such as radio priest Charles Coughlin, converts Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton, European apologists G.K. Chesterton and Hilaire Belloc and popes Pius X, XI, and XII. Marlett also brings to light for the first time the work of religious leagues, street preachers, and the priests and nuns who roamed the countryside to spread religious and rural reform through loudspeakers and tent meetings. Marlett highlights the work of the Vincentian "Motor Missions" in the Midwest heartland.

Striving to make their beliefs applicable in the familiar realms of work and family, Catholic agrarians played a pivotal role in the development of the American Midwest and the twentieth century Catholic Church. The first comprehensive picture of the Catholic missionary

experience in rural America, *Saving the Heartland* reveals a new dimension of American religious history.”

Jeffrey Marlett is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York.

Sioban Nelson, *“Say Little, Do much,” Nursing, nuns, and hospitals in the Nineteenth Century* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001). From the text:

“Nearly a half century before Florence Nightingale became a legendary figure for her pioneering work in the nursing trade, nursing nuns made significant but little-known accomplishments in the field. In fact, in the nineteenth century, more than 35% of American hospitals were created and run by women with religious vocations. In *Say Little, Do Much* Sioban Nelson casts light upon the work of the nineteenth century women’s religious communities. It was they who organized and administered home, hospital, epidemic, and military nursing in America as well as in Britain and Australia. According to Nelson, the popular view that nursing invented itself in the second half of the nineteenth century is historically inaccurate and dismissive of the major advances in the care of the sick as a serious and skilled activity, an activity that originated in seventeenth century France with Vincent de Paul’s Daughters of Charity.

In this comparative, contextual, and critical work, Nelson demonstrates how modern nursing developed from the complex interplay of the Catholic emancipation in Britain and Ireland, the resurgence of the Irish Church, the Irish Diaspora, and mass migrations of the German, Italian, and Polish Catholic communities to the previously Protestant strongholds of North American and mainland Britain. In particular, Nelson follows the nursing Daughters of Charity through the Revolution and Second Empire, documenting the relationship that developed between the French nursing orders and the Irish Catholic Church during this period. This relationship, she argues, was to have major significance in the English-speaking world.

Placing the evolution of the nursing field in the context of a complex array of religious and social conflicts, *Say Little, Do Much* appropriately counters the tendency of historians to ignore the place of religious institutions in American social history.”

Sioban Nelson is Senior Lecturer of the School of Postgraduate Nursing. The University of Melbourne, Australia.

Chantal Paisant, *Philippine Duchesne et ses compagnes. Les années Pionnières 1812-1823. Lettres et Journaux des premières missionnaires du Sacré Coeur aux Etats-Unis*, (Paris: Cerf, 2001). From the book jacket:

"The religious of the Sacred Heart departed from France for the United States in 1818 beginning the missionary outreach of their community within the vast scope of the missionary movement of the 19th century. They discovered a country that was in the process of being created where the conditions of their lives were little different than those of other pioneer Americans.

Reassembled here, for the first time, are the letters and journals of the seven first pioneers, Philippine Duchesne and her companions, for the period of 1818 to 1823. These testimonies, for the most part unedited, portray their daily life, the country and its customs, the struggles between the culture of the religious and the cultures of their neighbors, between the mission they first imagined and the mission they discovered as possible; with all of the adaptations that this required. *Les années Pionnières* tells, in all its complexity, the story of the human and spiritual adventures of a small expatriate community comprised of women who through their correspondence reveal their individual and community understanding of their mission as educators and apostolates."

The work cites many of Duchesne's contacts with Felix de Andreis and other early Vincentians. 49 Euros, ISBN 2-204-06747-4.

## JOURNALS

*Echoes of the Company*: The monthly international magazine of the Company of the Daughters of Charity.

November 2001, Number 11, pp. 502-523, features "Specific Contributions Saint Vincent and Saint Louise made to the identity and the spirituality of the Daughters of Charity," by Benito Martinez, C.M.

**I beg our dear crucified Jesus to fix us firmly to his cross, that being closely united to him in his holy love, we may endure our little trial for him and offer what little we do to him.**

*(Saint Louise de Marillac, letter 46, to Sister Elizabeth Martin, Angers, 5 June 1641)*



*Vincentiana*: This magazine of the Congregation of the Mission is published every two months by the General Curia in Rome.

The 2001 July-October issue, Volume 45, Number 4/5. Dedicated to Vincentian Month 2001 and titled the *Directors of the Daughters of Charity*, the collection of articles on "Knowledge of the Company" is of particular interest. Included:

- "Presentation of the Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul," by Superioress General Juana Elizondo, D.C.
- "Mission and Charity," by Fernando Quintano, C.M., Director General of the Daughters of Charity.
- "The Identity of the Daughters of Charity: Characteristic and Distinctive Elements. How does a Daughter of Charity live in today's world?" by Wivine Kisu, D.C., General Councillor.
- "The Spirituality of the Daughter of Charity," by Anne Prévost, D.C., Seminary Directress of France.
- "Specific Contribution of St. Vincent and St. Louise to the Identity and Spirituality of the Daughters of Charity," by Benito Martínez, C.M., Province of Zaragoza.
- "Vows of the Daughters of Charity," by Fernando Quintano, C.M.

**You must hold fast to nothing but God.**

*(Saint Vincent de Paul, conference to the Daughters of Charity,  
24 August 1659)*